

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00458 041245 Z

40

ACTION SY-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ADP-00 /013 W
----- 103877

R 041210 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5211

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0458

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, MA

SUBJ: MARINE SECURITY GUARDS

REFS: STATE 50 359 AND 58840

1. AFTER WEIGHING PROS AND CONS WE HAVE CONCLUDED AGAINST REQUESTING ASSIGNMENT MARINE GUARDS TO TANANARIVE AT THIS TIME.
2. WHILE RECOGNIZING SECURITY ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY 5- MAN MARINE CONTINGENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY AS WEIGHED AGAINST OTHER FUNCTIONS WOULD WARRANT INCREASING AMERICAN STAFF OF EMBASSY PROPER BY MORE THAN 60 PERCENT.
3. LOOKED AT IN ANOTHER WAY, ADDITION OF MARINE CONTINGENT TO AUTHORIZED DATT STAFFING OF 6 AMERICANS WOULD BRING U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE ABOVE THAT OF U. S. OFFICIAL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN COUNTRY WHERE OUR MILITARY INTERESTS ARE VERY LIMITED AND IT IS DESIRABLE TO KEEP OUR MILITARY PRESENCE AS INCONSPICUOUS AS POSSIBLE.
4. RECENT ASSIGNMENT AT OUR REQUEST OF MALAGASY POLICEMENT TO GUARD EMBASSY DURING WORKING HOURS AND RESIDENCE ON 24- HOUR BASIS OFFERS IMPROVEMENT IN CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SECURITY.
5. WE NOTE ALSO FROM REF B THAT VIRTUALLY NO AFRICAN POST OF OUR SIZE HAS MARINE COMPLEMENTS.

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6 SHOULD DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BE OPENED IN
TANANARIVE (FOR WHICH THERE APPEARS NO PRESENT PROSPECT), THEN
WE WOULD WANT RECONSIDER ASSIGNMENT MARINE GUARDS TO EMBASSY.

MENDENHALL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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